

# Agricultural Preservation



Scenario Development

Panel Discussion

3/18/09



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning

# Background and Purpose

Strategy analysis – one step in *GO TO 2040* process

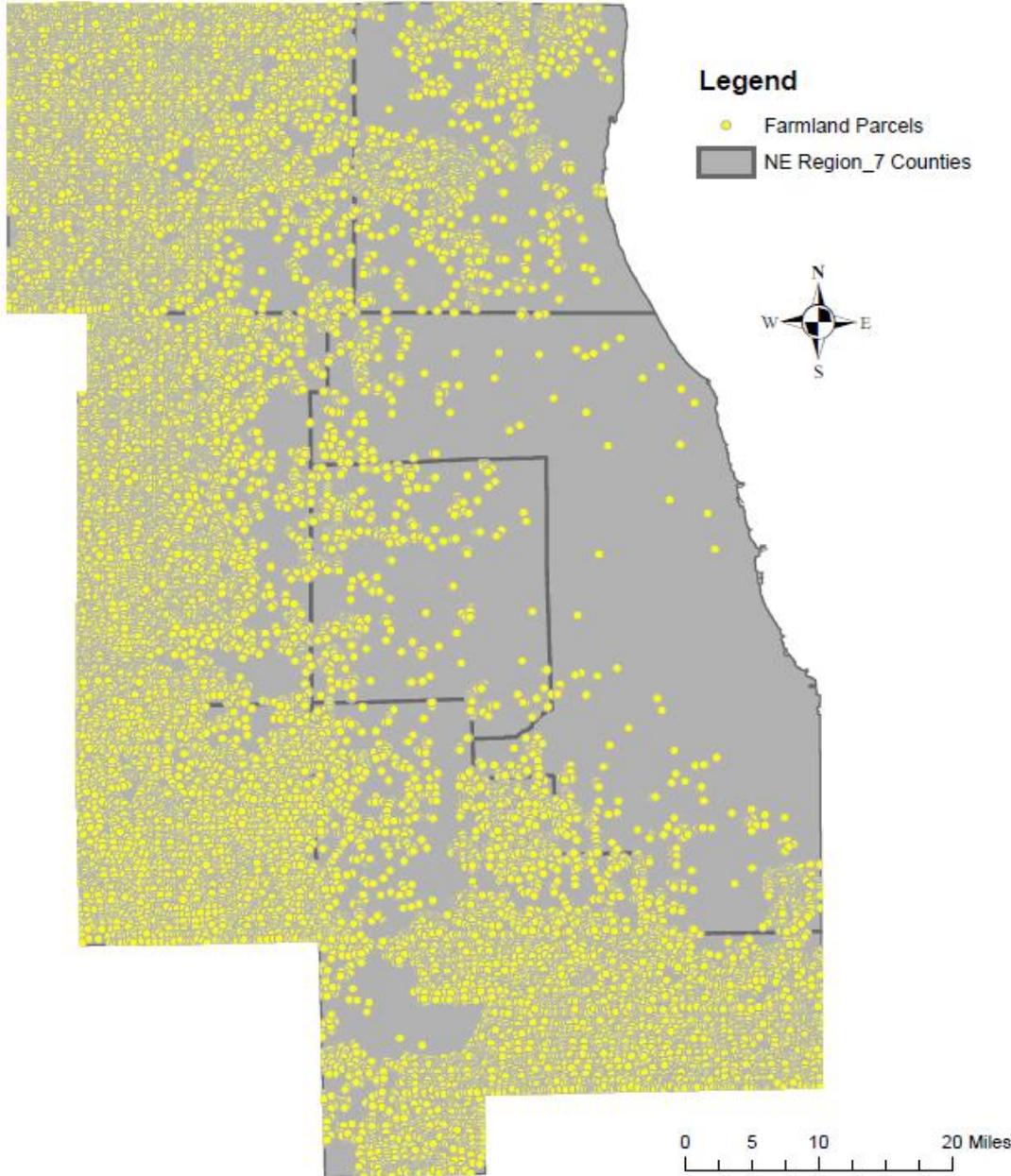
Two approaches will be described:

- Preservation of farmland through greatly expanded Purchase of Development Rights “sample program,” targeting 273,000 acres for preservation
- Introduction to local food systems planning approach

Purpose of this stage – regional estimates of totals, not site-specific or programming

Will be grouped with other strategies to form alternative scenarios

## Map 1: Regional Farmland Parcels



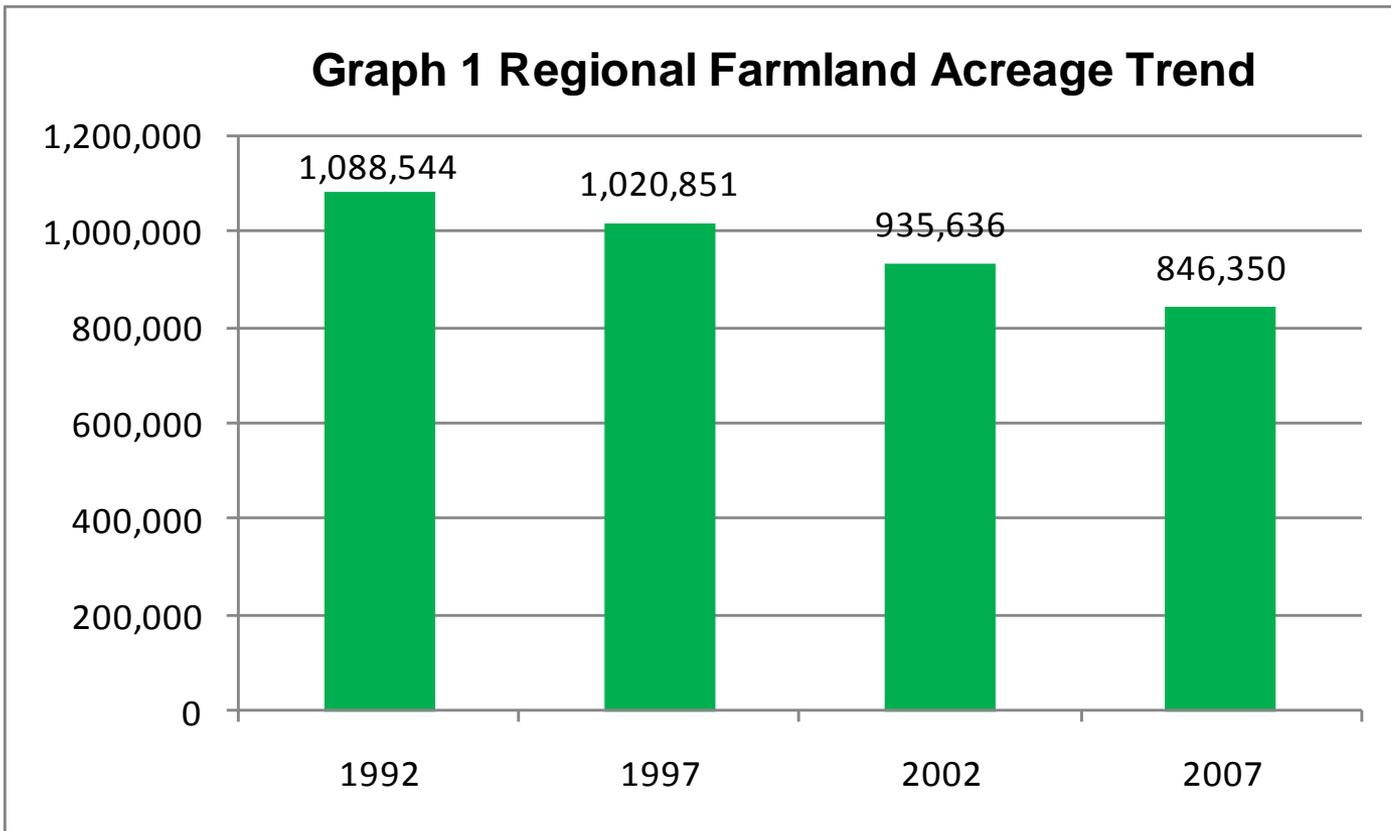
## Where is farmland in the region?

Map shows farmland parcels, est. 29,000, totaling 3,748 farms in the region

# Overview of Farmland in the Region



Farmland in the region continues to decline, 23% in fifteen years

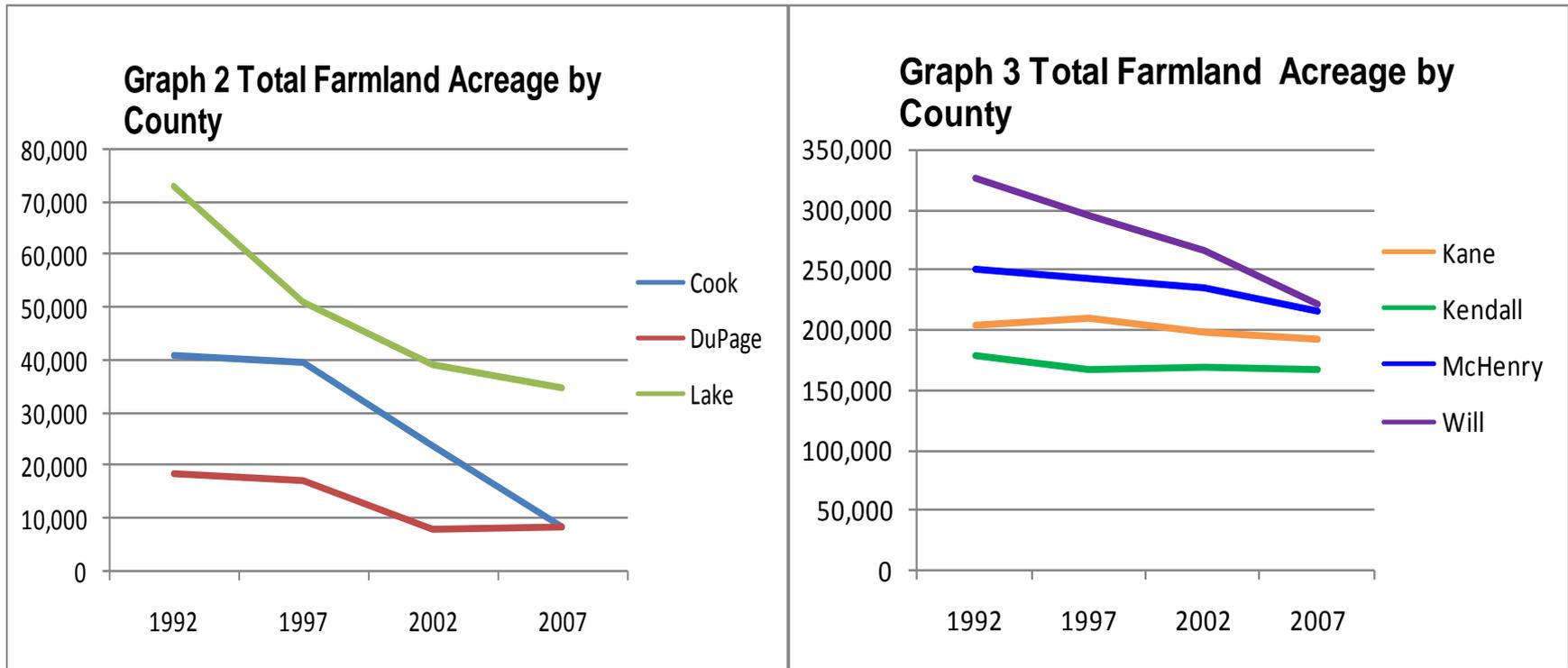


Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

# Regional Farmland Loss Comparison



Farmland loss across the region is different



# Assumptions for Sample Program

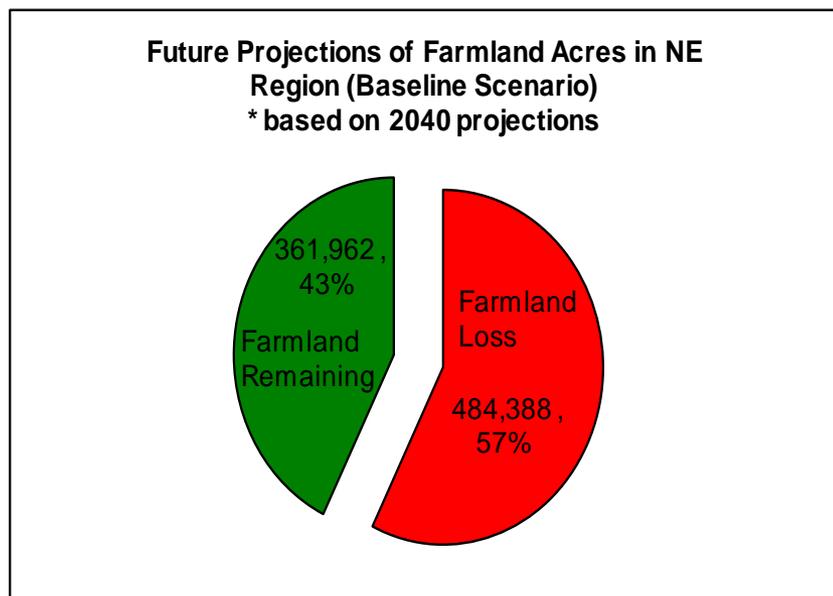


1. Set target for acreage preserved by PDR program
2. Determine soil productivity across the region
3. Determine economic farmland values in the region
4. Determine important criteria for sample program
5. Determine cost of sample program



# 1) Set target for preserving acreage of farmland

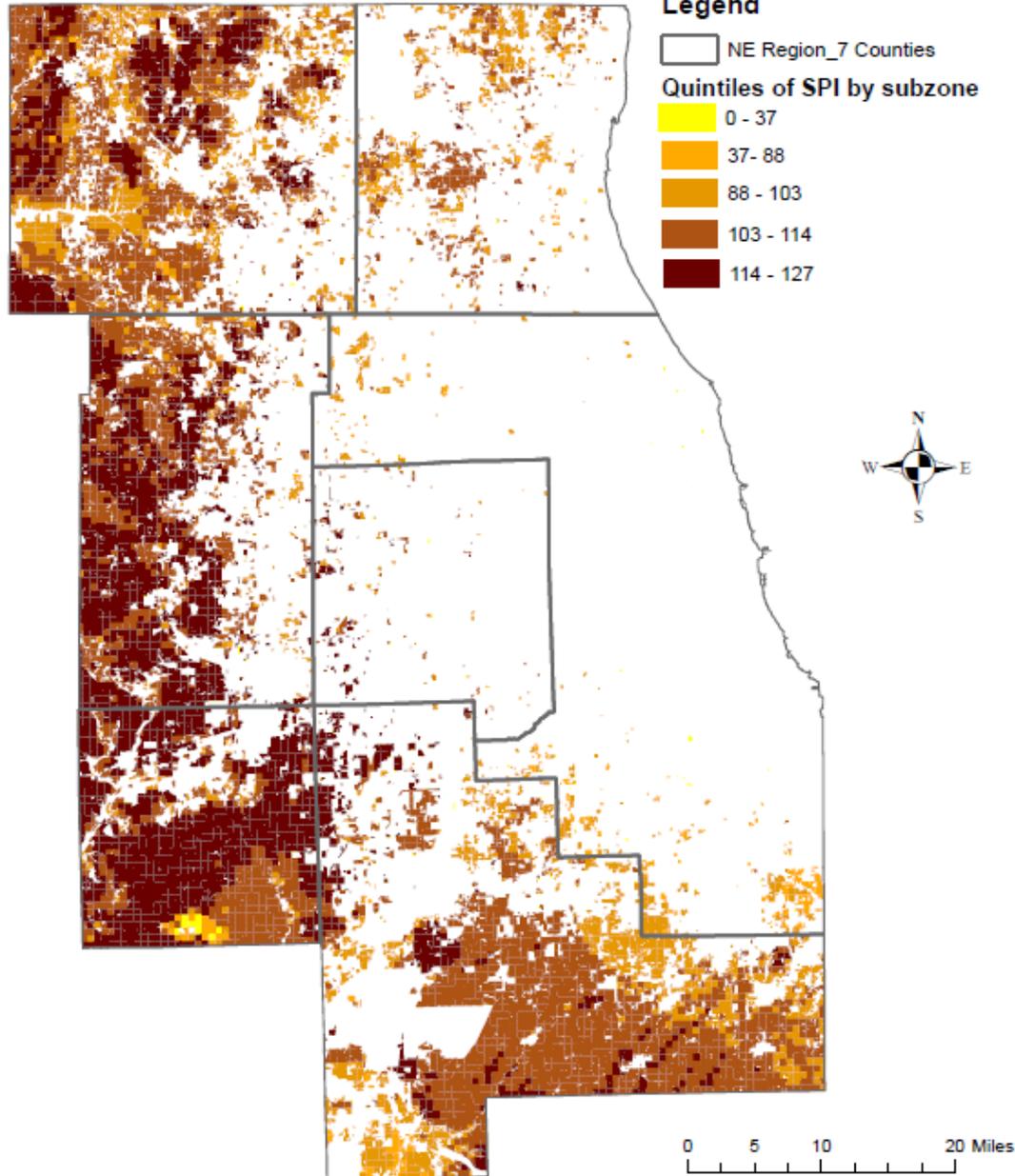
*How much farmland could be lost in the region, with current trends ?*



## Target Set

- Preserve 273,000 acres
  - 9,100 acres annually
- More than 50% cut in projected loss
- 75% acres preserved=630k acres

# Regional Soil Productivity



## 2) Determine Soil Productivity in the Region

The richest soil is within Kane, Kendall, McHenry, and Will Counties.

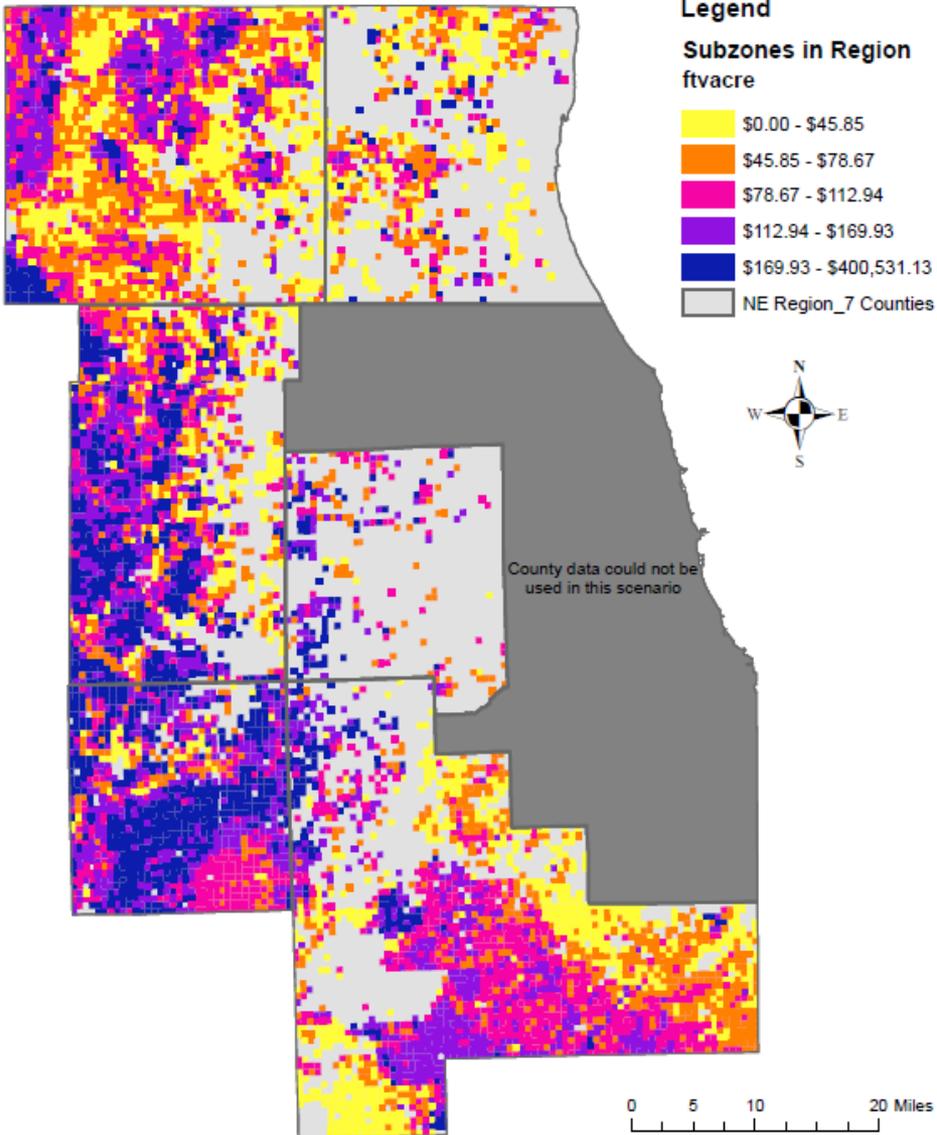
Sources: Soil Productivity Index and SSURGO County Database



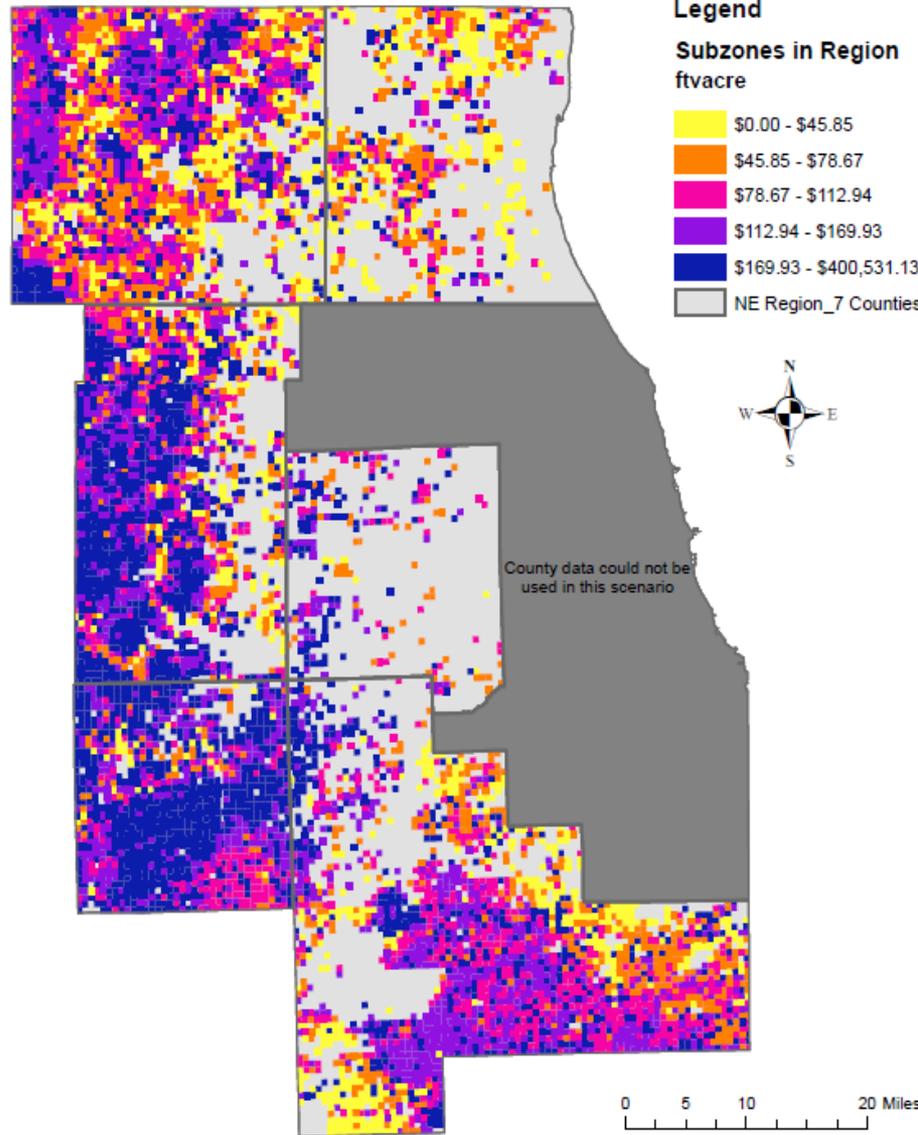
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

# 3) Determine Economic Farmland Values across the Region

Map 3: Farmland Value per Acre by Subzone



Map 4: Total Farmland Value per Acre by Subzone



## 4) Determine other important criteria for selection



Farmland had to meet at least 2 of the criteria

### Farmland economic value was the leading factor

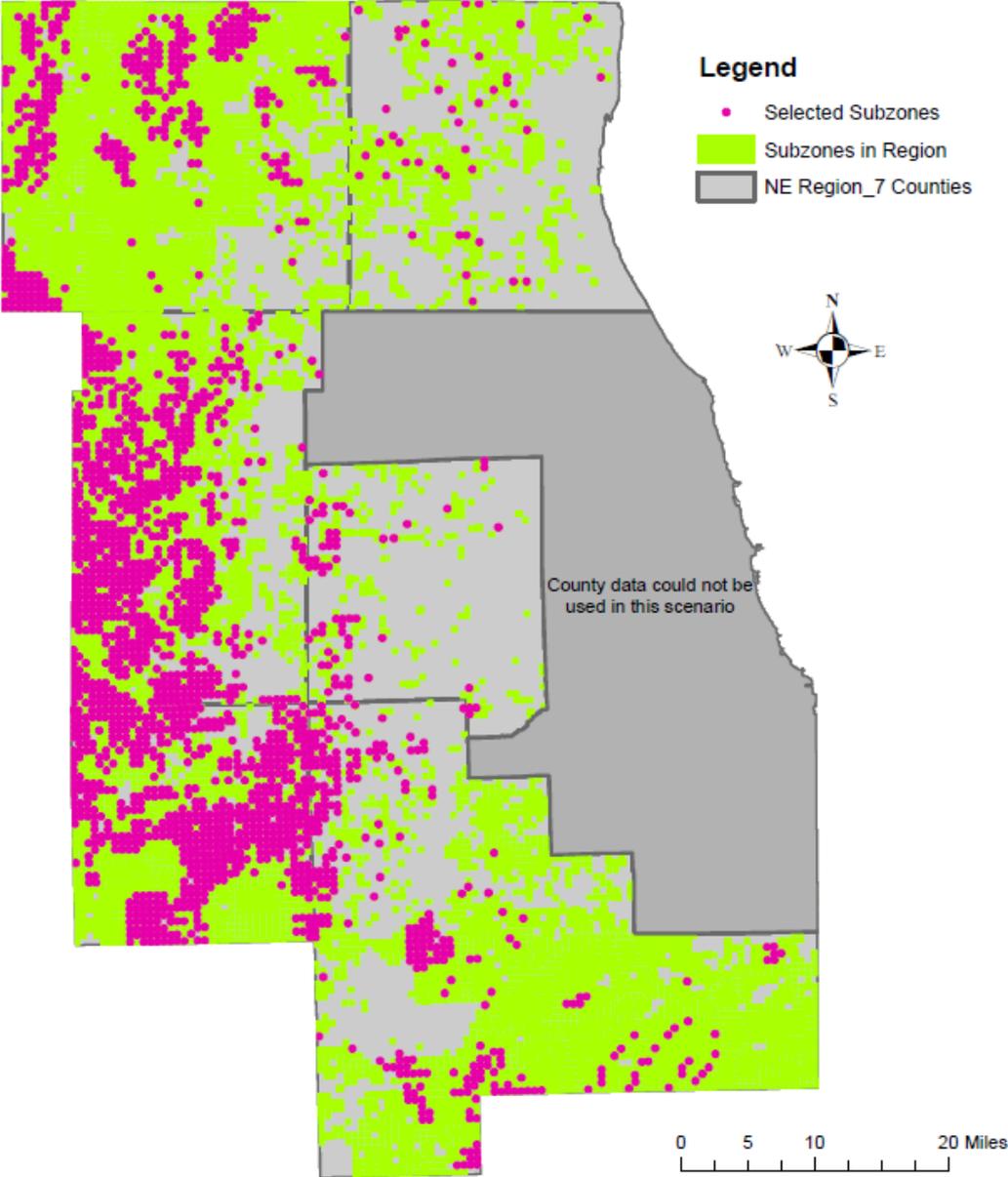
- Farmland intersecting within an FPA
- Farmland within a distance to major roads
- Farmland within a distance to open space
- Farmland within the Green Infrastructure Vision
- Farmland near regional streamlines



Map 10: Selected Farmland for Sample PDR Program

# Selection of Farmland Subzones

Total Acreage=273,000  
From 2,132 Subzones



# 5) Determine Cost of Sample Program

**Est. Cost Range- \$6,500 to \$10,000 per acre**

Assumption is highest price per acre is paid

Farmland Acres	Cost per acre	Total Cost
1 acre	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>273,000 acres</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$2,730,000,000</b>

If there were mixed farmland values, then per acre prices vary

% Split	# of Acres	Per Acre Cost	Total Cost
50%	136,500	\$10,000	\$1,365,000,000
25%	68,250	\$8,000	\$546,000,000
25%	68,250	\$6,500	\$443,625,000
<b>100%</b>	<b>273,000</b>	<b>Avg. \$8,166</b>	<b>\$2,354,625,000</b>

# Sample Program Impacts

- Preserve 273,000 acres of farmland
- Cost= \$1.77 to \$2.73 billion
- Environmental benefits (less impervious)
- Diversify regional economy
- Save rural landscapes and character
- Increase organic / local food opportunities  
(described more later)

# Next Steps

## Sample PDR program will require:

- Further analysis of cost and program details.
- Comparison to the land use plans of the affected counties.
- Implementation – how would the program be funded?

Who would administer it?

- Several indicators to be modeled and measured, such as the impact on distribution of population and jobs, the natural environment, and economic and fiscal health.

# Contact



**Shana Alford**

**[salford@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:salford@cmap.illinois.gov)**

**(312) 386-8619**



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning



# Food Systems Plan for Northeastern Illinois



# 2040 Regional Comprehensive Plan

**CMAP**

**Chicago  
Community  
Trust**

**LEAD AGENCIES**

**Chicago Food Policy  
Advisory Council**

**Chicago Dept of  
Zoning & Land Use  
Planning**

**Food Systems Advisory Board  
Community Feedback**



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning

# Chicago Food Policy Council



**CHICAGO  
FOOD POLICY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Established in 2002

Develops policy recommendations

Open, participatory, consensus-based organization

Over 300 participating members

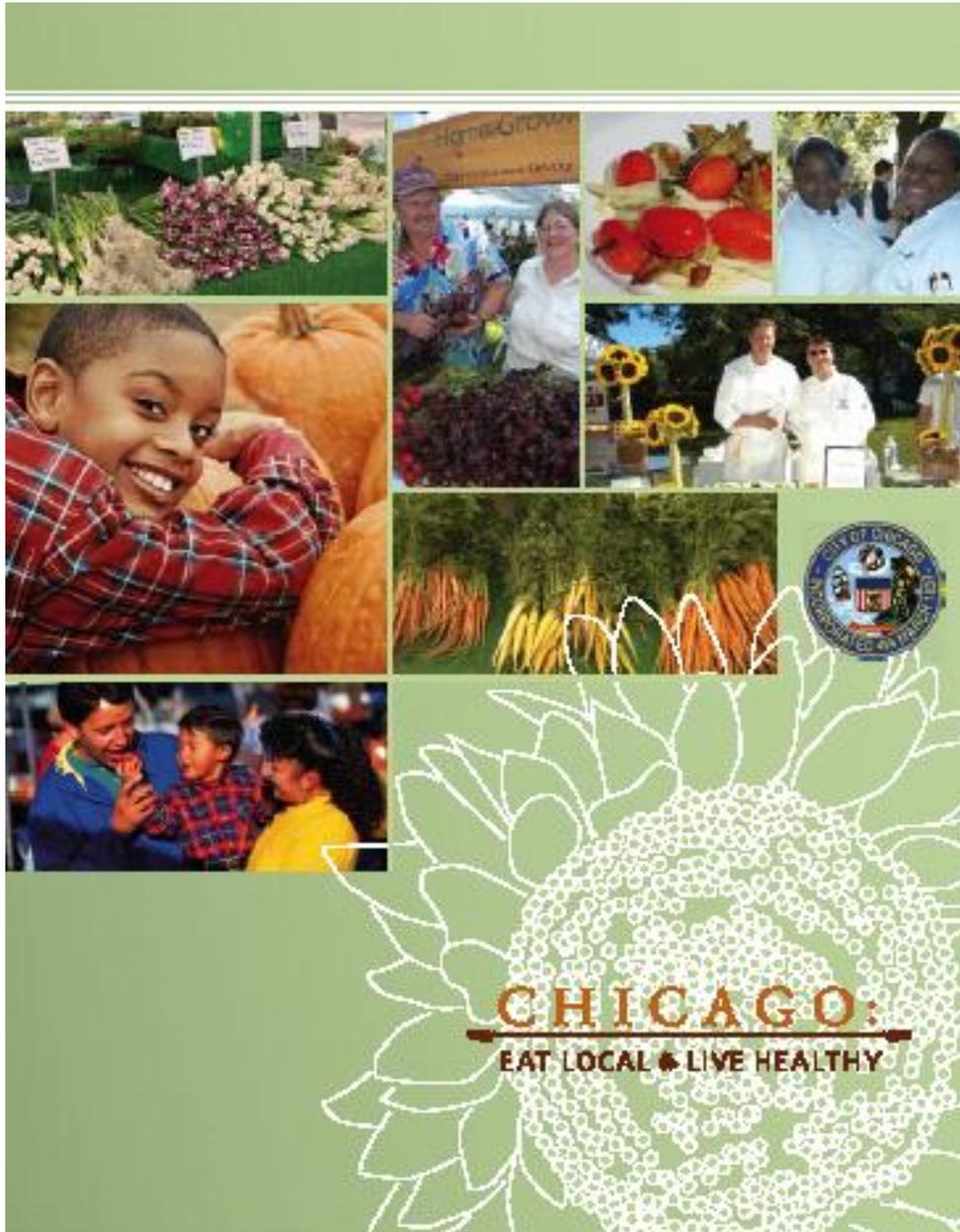


Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning

## City of Chicago

### Food strategy for supply

- neighborhood
- growing
- jobs
- access



# Advisory Committee Members

- Fresh Taste Initiative
- Wellspring Management
- Chicago State University
- Evanston Food Policy Council
- McHenry County Board Member
- Kane County Ag Preservationist
- Liberty Prairie Conservancy
- Green Earth Institute
- University of IL Extension, Cook City.
- The Land Connection
- Openlands
- University of Illinois Extension, Kane City.
- Hey and Associates
- Sodexo
- Chartwells
- Healthy South Chicago
- Chicago Metropolis 2020
- World Business Chicago
- Chicago Botanic Gardens
- MPC
- Cook City. Farm Bureau
- Quad Communities Development Corporation
- Healthy Schools Campaign
- Growing Power
- Healthy Chicago Lawn
- Healthy Albany Park
- Family Farmed
- Cook County Board of Directors
- UIC School of Public Health
- Esther's Place Fibers

# Outreach Strategy



- Farmer Outreach Meeting
- Four urban community based meetings
- CMAP Committee Presentations
- Upcoming meeting in Lake County (pending)



# Food Systems

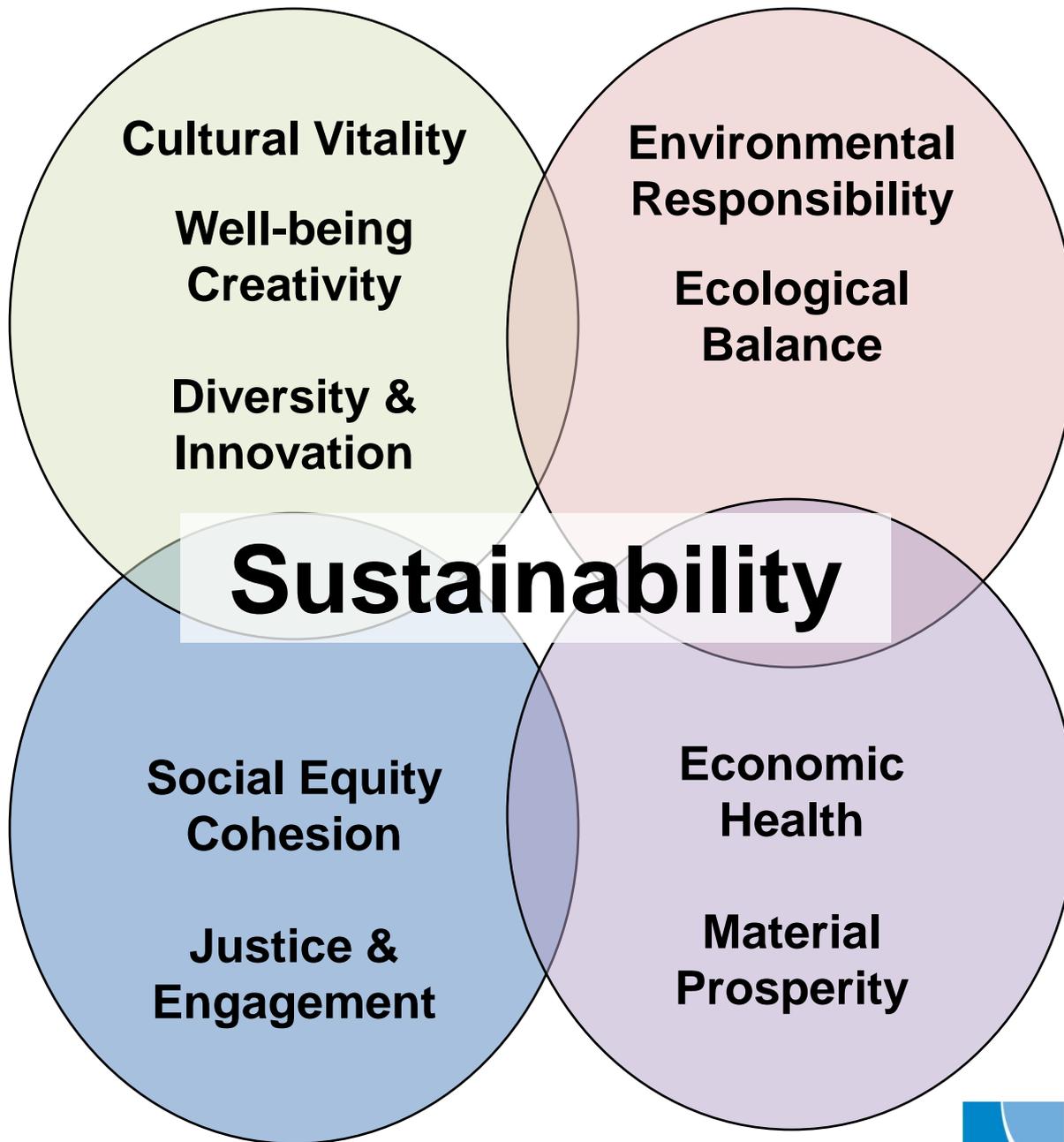
- The term 'food system' is used frequently in discussion about nutrition, food, health, community economic development, and agriculture.
- The food system includes all processes involved in keeping us fed: growing harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consuming, and disposing of food and food packages.
- It also includes the inputs needed and outputs influenced by social, political, economic and natural environments.
- Each step is also dependent on human resources that provide labor, research and education.- APA

# Vision for the Region



- **In 2040 we will have a regional food system that nourishes our people and the land. The food system will:**
  - Achieve economic vitality by balancing profitability with diversification in all sectors
  - Preserve farmland and enhance water and soil quality in closed loop systems
  - Contribute to social justice through equal access to affordable, nutritious food.
  - Support vibrant local food cultures based on seasonality and availability.





# Land Use Issues

- Public land for agricultural production
- Zoning laws to include urban agriculture & livestock
- Role of local government and federal government
- Environmental quality: soil, water
- Need of large scale composting systems
- Taxing structures to support food related industries & grocery stores
- Investment in new and existing infrastructure

**“If our agriculture is not sustainable than our food supply is not sustainable”**

Wes Jackson, the Land Institute

## Contact Information

Lynn Peemoeller

Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council

773-220-5966

[Lynn@chicagofoodpolicy.org](mailto:Lynn@chicagofoodpolicy.org)



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning